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Agenda item 71 (n)
General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament

Nuclear disarmament

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/38 I, of 9 December 1997, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", paragraphs 3 to 8 of which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "...
>
> "3. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;
>
> "4. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and a phased programme of progressive and balanced deep reductions of nuclear weapons, and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;
>
> "5. *Expresses its concern* at the continuing opposition by some States to the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament, as called for in General Assembly resolution 51/45 O;
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> "6. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 1998 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework through a nuclear weapons convention;
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> "7. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account in this regard the proposal of the twenty-eight delegations for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons, as well as the mandate for the ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, proposed by the twenty-six delegations;
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> "8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. In connection with the implementation of the above resolution, a number of proposals and initiatives have been put forward. In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of Member States to the report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/53/27) on its 1998 session, which contains proposals made regarding the points raised in the resolution.

3. The Secretary-General welcomes the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the

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production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and the commencement of its work. He has taken note of the decision by the Conference that the presidency of the Conference pursue intensive consultations and seek the views of the members of the Conference on appropriate methods and approaches for dealing with agenda item 1 (Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament), taking into consideration all proposals and views in this respect. Progress reports on the agenda item presented by successive Presidents of the Conference indicate that, although the consultations were wide-ranging and substantive, they were inconclusive and that further consultations in this regard would be required.

4. The Secretary-General also notes the unilateral or bilateral efforts undertaken by nuclear-weapon States with a view to making the process of nuclear-weapons reduction irreversible. The Secretary-General continues to believe that systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons, in particular by the nuclear-weapon States, with the ultimate goal of their complete elimination, remain a priority task to be pursued vigorously by the international community.